



Kendallville Park and Recreation Department

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BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 10, 2026

6:30PM

Present: Tracy Tipton, President, Kevin Jansen, Vice President, Dave Button, Jen Blackman, Jeni Ekovich, Dennis Nartker, Dawn McGahen, Park Director, Brian Brennan, and Grace Johnson.

Public Comments: None were presented.

Minutes of the July 13, 2026, meeting was approved. (Jansen, Blackman)

Claims were reviewed and approved as presented. (Nartker, Button)

Directors Report:

1. Working on the budget with budget meetings this week.
2. We had a tree limb fall on a camper that caused minimal damage and was removed by maintenance staff.
3. The new office manager is Rachel Ort, she will start Monday August 17th, 2026.
4. We are working on having pavilion rentals available online.
5. Dawn will be on vacation for a week.
6. The police have been doing a great job patrolling the park system.
7. Dawn will work with DNR regarding the west shoreline of Bixler Lake.
8. The board discussed a group renting the complex for an overnight tournament for a fundraiser. It was agreed that they will pay \$300 since they will be utilizing lights.

Maintenance Report:

1. Continue to mow, weed eat and spray the grounds.
2. Cleaned up limbs and trees that came down in the storms.
3. Cut down the standing tree stump near Jansen Pavilion.
4. Working on Art Work for the mini golf course.
5. Continue to groom beaches twice a week.
6. Sealed the mini golf and two basketball courts.

Recreation Report:

1. Musicpalooza was cancelled due to weather.
2. Summer day camp ended and Dawn reported what a great year it was. Our leaders in training group had an overnigher in the campground and had lots of fun.
3. September 12th will be the last Saturday in the Park event.
4. The mobile stage has been used in house and rented out to organizations.

Kendallville Outdoor Recreation Complex:

1. The wiffleball tournament was held and there were 31 teams that participated.
2. The fall recreation league starts playing this week.

Acceptance of Donations: (Blackman, Nartker)

- General Use: Geenex \$1,000.00
- General Use: Kendallville Iron & Metal (scrap metal) \$41.50
- Mobile Stage: Susan Jansen \$500.00

Board Input: Dennis asked about recreational ball league numbers and was advised that player numbers were down this year.

Dave mentioned how even with the hot and then wet weather, the park grounds look really good.

Kevin commended that park on a successful summer season.

Jen asked about events that are held at the Youth Center.

Tracy asked about Sunset Prairie and how it was looking.

Adjournment: 6:57pm (Nartker, Button)